

LAKE MICHIGAN

Lake, Porter, LaPorte Counties

2006 Charter Boat Catch and Effort, Indiana Waters of Lake Michigan

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Fifty-five charter licenses were issued to fish Lake Michigan during 2006.
- Compliance with the mandatory reporting requirement during 2006 was 99.9%. From the reports received, 89% were received within the legal required time frame (based upon the post-mark date on the mailing envelope or the hand-delivery date). Of the reports that were turned in tardy, the average was 38 days late.
- Operators submitted reports on 508 fishing excursions in Indiana waters of Lake Michigan. Salmonid species were the primary target (407 trips); however, 101 fishing trips were conducted exclusively for yellow perch by 9 licensed operators.
- A total of 10,300.5 hours were spent pursuing trout and salmon by 1,916 chartered anglers. This was a 44% decrease in angler hours and a 41% decrease in anglers compared to the 2005 fishing season. A total of 2,844 hours were spent fishing for perch by 551 chartered anglers. This was an increase compared to the 2005 season when only 1,556 hours were spent yellow perch fishing by 299 chartered anglers.
- The trout and salmon harvest totaled 4,226 fish. The most abundant species in the harvest were coho salmon, comprising 80% of the total. The 2006 trout and salmon harvest decreased by 27% compared to the 2005 harvest of 5,761 fish. The yellow perch harvest of 6,042 fish, however, was nearly double the 2005 harvest of 3,394 perch.
- Charter fishing success for all salmonid species was 42.3 fish per 100 angler-hours, an increase over the 31.8 fish per 100 angler-hours observed in 2005. The 2006 charter catch rates for coho salmon, brown trout and lake trout increased; whereas Chinook salmon and steelhead catch rates decreased. Comparing 2006 catch rates with their ten-year averages, brown trout and lake trout had rates that either equaled or exceeded their long-term average. Charter catch rates for Chinook salmon, coho and steelhead were all below their ten-year average.
- Fishing success in Indiana waters is influenced by many factors including, but not limited to, near shore water temperatures, weather patterns, stocking levels, forage levels, fish movement and angler-effort. Changes, positive and negative, directly influence the overall success of each fishing season.

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INTRODUCTION

In 1987, the Indiana Legislature enacted a law that requires reporting of sport catch and effort by the charter fishing industry. The legislation was supported by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the charter fishing community. The objective of the reporting system is to obtain a continuous annual record of charter fishing effort and the numbers and species of fish harvested by charter boat anglers in Indiana. This information assists with Lake Michigan fishery management efforts by providing valuable trend information concerning charter harvest and catch rates, and provides an overview of the status of stocked salmonids. Subsequently, the Indiana charter community is provided with catch and effort statistics.

Salmon and trout have been an important component of the Lake Michigan fish community since the late 1960's (Eshenroder et. al., 1995). Originally planted to utilize an overabundant population of non-native alewives (*Alosa pseudoharengus*), stocking continues today and provides sport fishing opportunities for lake and tributary anglers. In 2001, Lake Michigan ranked second in popularity for Great Lakes fishing and hosted thirty percent of the overall anglers (U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Commerce 2002).

Since 1994, the number of fingerling trout and salmon stocked in Lake Michigan has averaged 13.7 million (Figure 1). The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, on average, has stocked 1.2 million trout and salmon annually into Indiana waters of Lake Michigan since 1994 (Table 1, Figure 2).

METHODS

Catch and effort information were submitted by charter boat operators through the mandatory catch reporting system. Licensees provided catch information on a per trip basis for all paid trips conducted exclusively in Indiana waters of Lake Michigan. Reports were required to be submitted before the fifteenth day of the following month, as outlined in Administrative Code 312 I.A.C. 9-7-17 (Appendix 1). The administration of the charter reporting program and compilation of Lake Michigan charter fishing catch and effort is part of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's

Project/Grant F10D39504. This project covers sport fish monitoring in Lake Michigan and its tributaries.

The information obtained from each report included: reporting period (month), name of licensee, license number, date of fishing trip, total number of anglers, total hours fished, and numbers of fish harvested and released (Appendix 2). Space was also provided on the form for comments or observations. Only paid trips conducted wholly or partially in Indiana waters needed to be reported. Reports were required monthly, even if no fishing activity occurred as long as the license was active.

Delinquencies were directly addressed by the Division of Law Enforcement District 10 Headquarters, Michigan City. Operators who were missing required reports (or failed to mail reports by the date required) were either telephoned directly or issued a written warning for failure to submit the charter boat operator's report (s) before the 15th day of each month (312 I.A.C. 9-7-17; Authority I.C. 14-22-2-6, I.C. 14-22-15).

The information obtained from these monthly catch reports is summarized annually and presented below.

RESULTS

Lake Michigan licenses

Fifty-five charter licenses were issued to fish Lake Michigan during 2006. Since 2003, the number of Lake Michigan charter licenses issued has remained steady (Table 2).

Compliance

Compliance with the mandatory reporting requirement during 2006 was 99.9%. From the reports received, 89% were received within the legal required time frame (based upon the post-mark date on the mailing envelope or the hand-delivery date). Of the reports that were turned in tardy, the average was 38 days late. This is an increase compared to 2005 when the average was only 20 days.

Eight licensees received either a written warning or were contacted directly for missing reports. Seven of the warnings and/or calls were for reports during active fishing months between April and October.

Fishing harvest and effort

Operators submitted reports on 508 fishing excursions in Indiana waters of Lake Michigan. This was approximately 33% fewer trips compared to the 2005 fishing season, also with 55 Lake Michigan operators (Palla 2006). Salmonid species were the primary target; however, 101 fishing trips were conducted exclusively for yellow perch by 9 licensed operators.

Trout and salmon

During the 2006 fishing season, 1,916 chartered anglers spent 10,300.5 hours in pursuit of trout and salmon (Table 3, Figure 3). A total of 4,226 salmonids were harvested. Coho salmon were the most abundant species in the harvest, comprising 80% of the total (Figure 3). Chinook salmon harvest followed, with 429 fish or 10% of the total. Harvest was greatest during the month of April followed by March; whereas, effort was greatest during the month of April followed by September and March (Table 3).

The 2006 trout and salmon harvest declined approximately 27% compared to the prior fishing season, when 5,761 fish were harvested (Figure 3). The 2006 angler effort also declined by 44% compared to 2005, when 18,449 hours were spent pursuing trout and salmon (Table 4). Catch, or the number of fish harvested plus the number of fish released, also declined approximately 27% between 2005 and 2006 (Table 4).

Yellow perch

A total of 2,844 hours, representing 101 trips, were spent fishing for perch by 551 chartered anglers (Table 5). This was an 83% increase in effort compared to the 2005 season when only 1,556 hours, or 57 trips, were fished exclusively for yellow perch

(Palla 2006). The 2006 perch harvest nearly doubled, 6,042 perch compared to the 3,394 perch harvested in 2005 (Palla 2006).

Catch rates

Relative yearly comparisons of catch, independent of the magnitude of effort, are possible by expressing the catch on a per-unit-of-effort basis, known as catch rates. Catch, or the total number of fish caught, provides a more detailed recreational description and were utilized to standardize each fishing season. With this measure, the long-term trend of fishing success by species can be presented for yearly comparisons. All catch rates are standardized to 100 angler-hours because catch rates were significantly less than one fish caught for every hour spent trout and salmon angling.

The charter-angler fishing success, all salmonid species combined, was 42.3 fish per 100 angler-hours (Figure 4). This was higher than the 2005 rate (31.8 fish/100 angler hours), but overall lower than the ten-year average of 50.0 fish per 100 angler-hours (Figure 4). Charter catch rates for coho salmon, brown trout and lake trout all increased over the 2005 fishing season; whereas Chinook salmon and steelhead rates decreased (Figures 5 through 9). Comparing 2006 catch rates with their ten-year averages, brown trout and lake trout had rates that either equaled or exceeded their long-term average (Figures 8 and 9). The charter catch rates for Chinook salmon, coho salmon and steelhead were all below their ten-year average (Figures 5, 6 and 7).

Released species

A relatively low number of trout and salmon were released by chartered anglers, as shown in Table 6. Coho salmon were most often released from the spring months of March and April. For yellow perch, a total of 3,733 fish were legal releases, representing 38% of the total catch (Table 5).

DISCUSSION

Based on catch rates, the 2006 salmonid fishing season can be characterized as average for Chinook salmon, brown trout and lake trout and below average for coho salmon and steelhead.

The success of a fishing season in Indiana waters of Lake Michigan is influenced by several factors, including but not limited to, spring weather patterns, near shore water temperatures, stocking levels, forage levels, fish movement and angler-effort. Positive and/or negative changes to these factors can significantly alter the outcome of any particular fishing year. Since lake wide and Indiana salmonid stocking levels have remained stable the last several years, other factors are likely playing a key role in salmonid distribution and movement.

Due to the depth of Indiana's portion of Lake Michigan, these waters warm first after ice departure. This warming concentrates fish, including trout and salmon and forage species, in the southern portion of Lake Michigan. Hence, the majority of early spring fishing occurs within a narrow two-mile band along Indiana's shoreline, in waters less than 60 feet in depth. While these warming waters benefit southern Lake Michigan anglers in the early spring months, quick warming in near shore areas can negatively impact fishing success as fish disperse and move into deeper offshore areas. The 2006 spring season was very similar to 2005, in that fish moved offshore into Illinois and Michigan waters by mid-April. Fishing depths were greater than 130 feet of water, which entails traveling a distance greater than 16 miles offshore (Brian Breidert, personal communication). Since Indiana charter operators are only required to report Indiana trips, many operators moved offshore by April, resulting in a decline in the overall number of spring trips run in Indiana waters. The number of trips conducted in April fell 23% from 2005 to 2006. Comments recorded on the charter boat operator report form during the month of April confirm that operators were less than satisfied with the 2006 spring season. Comments ranged from "worse spring fishing season ever" to "moved offshore to find fish". One operator even commented, "Fishing was even worse than in 2005; with \$3.50 gas prices and very few fish in Indiana - I can't continue to charter". Higher operating expenses are incurred when operators travel greater distances to locate trout and salmon

concentrations. Operating expense and fish availability are the two most likely reasons the number of trips declined, particularly during the spring months. Overall, the total number of trout and salmon trips declined by 42%, from 703 excursions in 2005 to 407 excursions in 2006.

During the 2006 fishing season, more yellow perch trips were reported than the previous fishing season. A total of 81 perch trips, by 9 licensed operators, were conducted during May through August (these months accounted for >80% of the total number of yellow perch trips). In 2005, a total of 37 perch trips (by 10 licensed operators) were conducted those same four months. The increase observed in both the catch and effort of yellow perch was likely a function of the availability of yellow perch versus trout and salmon in near shore waters.

In Lake Michigan, tremendous changes have occurred to the fish community since the introduction of Pacific salmon. Future angling success within Indiana's waters of Lake Michigan will be difficult to predict, as predator-prey relationships, food web dynamics and the introduction of exotic species all influence salmonid survival and distribution. The number of fish the lake can support will continue to vary as positive and negative changes occur to the Lake Michigan ecosystem.

Species diversity within Lake Michigan does allow operators to fish for alternate species (e.g. yellow perch, smallmouth bass), which can improve customer catch rates. Businesses that recognize the importance of market diversification may increase profitability. It is important to recognize, though, that other factors (i.e. economics) will also impact the future success of the charter industry (Kuehn et. al., 2005).

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended:

- The Lake Michigan Fisheries Research office continues program administration of the mandatory catch reporting system.

- The Lake Michigan Fisheries Research office continues working with District 10 Law Enforcement to improve report compliance and decrease report tardiness.
- The Lake Michigan Fisheries Research office should continue compiling and providing copies of the Charter Boat Catch and Effort in Indiana Water's of Lake Michigan report to charter operators. This report not only provides the Indiana charter community with catch and effort statistics, but also provides valuable trend information concerning charter harvest and catch rates.
- Data from inland charter operators be made available to district fisheries biologists.

LITERATURE CITED

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- Kuehn, D., F. Lichtkoppler, and C. Pistis. The Great Lakes charter fishing industry: 1973 to 2002. Fisheries 30.3 (2005): 10-17.
- Palla, J. 2006. Charter boat catch and effort, Indiana waters of Lake Michigan, 2005. Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Indianapolis, Indiana. 19 pp.
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau. 2002. 2001 National survey of fishing, hunting, and wildlife-associated recreation. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

Submitted by: Janel S. Palla, Assistant Fisheries Biologist
Date: March 20, 2007

Approved by: Brian Breidert, Fisheries Biologist

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Date: March 20, 2007

Table 1. Number of trout and salmon stocked in Lake Michigan by Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 1994 through 2006.

<u>Year</u>	LAKE MICHIGAN				ST. JOSEPH RIVER		
	<u>Chinook Salmon</u>	<u>Coho Salmon</u>	<u>Steelhead Trout</u>	<u>Brown Trout</u>	<u>Chinook Salmon</u>	<u>Coho Salmon</u>	<u>Steelhead Trout</u>
1994	368,026	84,397	378,522	0	168,938	0	172,975
1995	364,182	165,809	301,052	0	190,819	0	188,842
1996	362,162	266,549	312,776	0	209,407	75,980	254,135
1997	279,297	80,817	340,010	0	143,262	0	287,174
1998	386,525	148,320	183,715	0	206,987	0	299,869
1999	264,608	146,882	319,082	0	150,811	0	252,491
2000	267,865	157,208	174,136	0	149,911	0	220,439
2001	297,195	157,048	297,971	0	153,520	0	293,475
2002	253,000	224,797	298,884	35,000	0	0	306,297
2003	232,395	233,248	309,134	40,400	0	0	282,857
2004	237,052	236,026	334,968	46,238	0	0	278,109
2005	251,281	237,009	645,576	36,371	0	0	287,471
2006*	225,000	79,018	257,206	42,900	0	0	234,211
Totals	3,788,588	2,217,128	4,153,032	200,909	1,373,655	75,980	3,358,345

* Due to the shut-down and rehabilitation of Mixsawbah State Fish Hatchery in 2006, the coho salmon plantings were reduced by sixty percent, the spring release skamania steelhead were stocked in the fall of 2005 as fingerlings, Michigan steelhead (winter-run) will be stocked in March of 2007 as yearlings instead of December 2006 as fingerlings, and the St. Joseph River fall steelhead plantings were reduced by approximately 40,000 fish to offset changes to the Trail Creek and Little Calumet steelhead stockings.

Table 2. Number of Lake Michigan charter licenses issued by Indiana Department of Natural Resources from 1997 through 2006.

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. Licenses</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>No. Licenses</u>
1997	45	2002	47
1998	42	2003	53
1999	40	2004	54
2000	39	2005	55
2001	41	2006	55

Table 3. Trout and salmon harvest and fishing effort reported by charter boat operators fishing Indiana waters of Lake Michigan during 2006.

	MONTH									
	<u>MAR.</u>	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUG.</u>	<u>SEPT.</u>	<u>OCT.</u>	<u>NOV.</u>	TOTAL
<u>HARVEST</u>										
Coho	979	2,172	118	78	18	4	4	0	0	3,373
Chinook	5	62	18	20	33	141	145	5	0	429
Steelhead	3	49	14	20	16	13	0	0	0	115
Brown Trout	74	116	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	196
Lake Trout	1	78	9	2	5	16	2	0	0	113
TOTAL	1,062	2,477	160	120	72	179	151	5	0	4,226
Angler- Hours	1,156.5	5,490.5	743	490	239.5	601	1,448	132	0	10,300.5
Anglers	250	1,057	124	85	40	91	247	22	0	1,916
Trips	57	212	30	18	10	19	57	4	0	407

Table 4. Trout and salmon catch and fishing effort reported by charter boat operators fishing Indiana waters of Lake Michigan from 1997 through 2006.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coho</u>	<u>Chinook</u>	<u>Steel-head</u>	<u>Brown Trout</u>	<u>Lake Trout</u>	<u>Angler Hours</u>	<u>No. Anglers</u>	<u>Trips</u>
1997	14,228	734	953	533	223	19,482	4,167	836
1998	5,431	158	801	352	282	13,630	2,856	584
1999	6,933	403	1,484	249	203	27,964	5,427	1,139
2000	6,707	432	178	394	149	13,953	2,815	571
2001	10,129	675	305	272	192	19,295	3,576	744
2002	8,518	1,420	713	349	177	21,164	3,946	841
2003	8,777	818	889	176	63	22,201	4,000	862
2004	6,946	2,354	449	276	85	25,852	4,535	990
2005	3,697	1,371	453	286	68	18,449	3,229	703
2006	3,474	444	115	207	118	10,300.5	1,916	407
Five-year Average (‘01-‘05)	6,282	1,281	524	259	102	19,593	3,525	761
Ten-year Average	7,484	881	634	309	156	19,229	3,647	768

Table 5. Yellow perch harvest, number of yellow perch releases, and fishing effort reported by charter boat operators fishing Indiana waters of Lake Michigan during 2006.

	MONTH									
	<u>MAR.</u>	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUG.</u>	<u>SEPT.</u>	<u>OCT.</u>	<u>NOV.</u>	TOTAL
<u>Catch</u>										
Yellow Perch Harvest	0	297	86	586	2,656	1,795	14	138	470	6,042
Yellow Perch Releases	0	168	117	336	1,762	715	30	130	475	3,733
Angler- Hours	0	199	231	396	1,040	633	35	106	204	2,844
Anglers	0	41	43	75	207	126	5	16	38	551
Trips	0	9	9	15	36	21	1	3	7	101

Table 6. The number of trout and salmon released as reported by charter boat operators fishing Indiana waters of Lake Michigan during 2006.

	MONTH									
	<u>MAR.</u>	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUG.</u>	<u>SEPT.</u>	<u>OCT.</u>	<u>NOV.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>SPECIES</u>										
Coho	25	72	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	101
Chinook	1	4	8	0	0	0	2	0	0	15
Steelhead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brown Trout	2	6	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	11
Lake Trout	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5

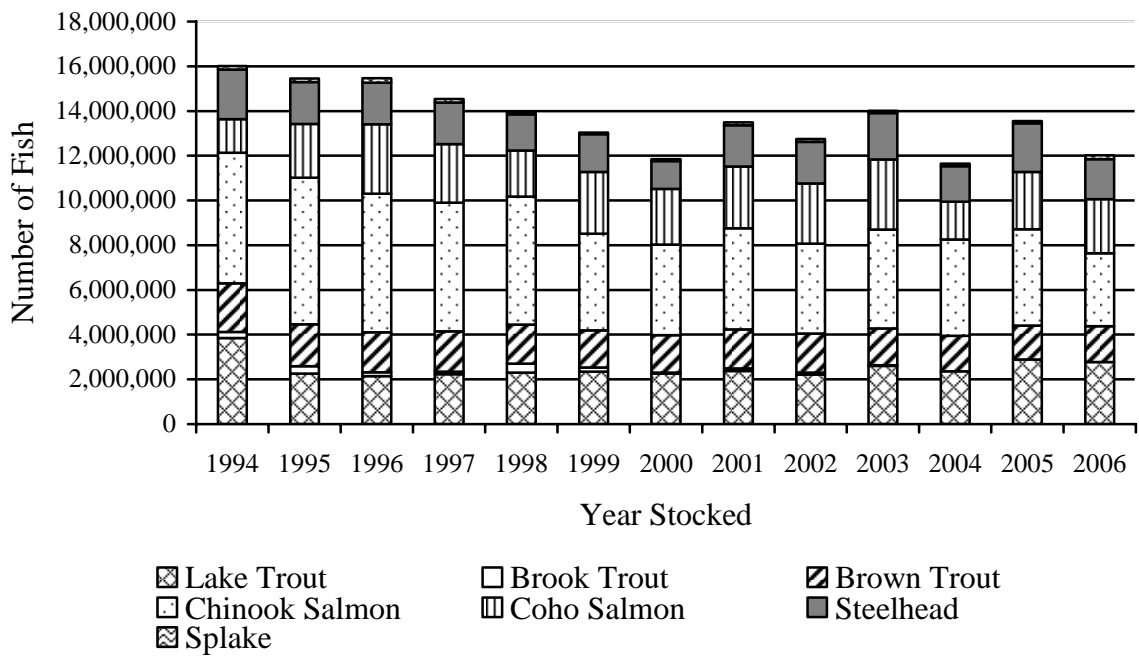


Figure 1. Number of trout and salmon stocked in Lake Michigan each year, 1994 through 2006.

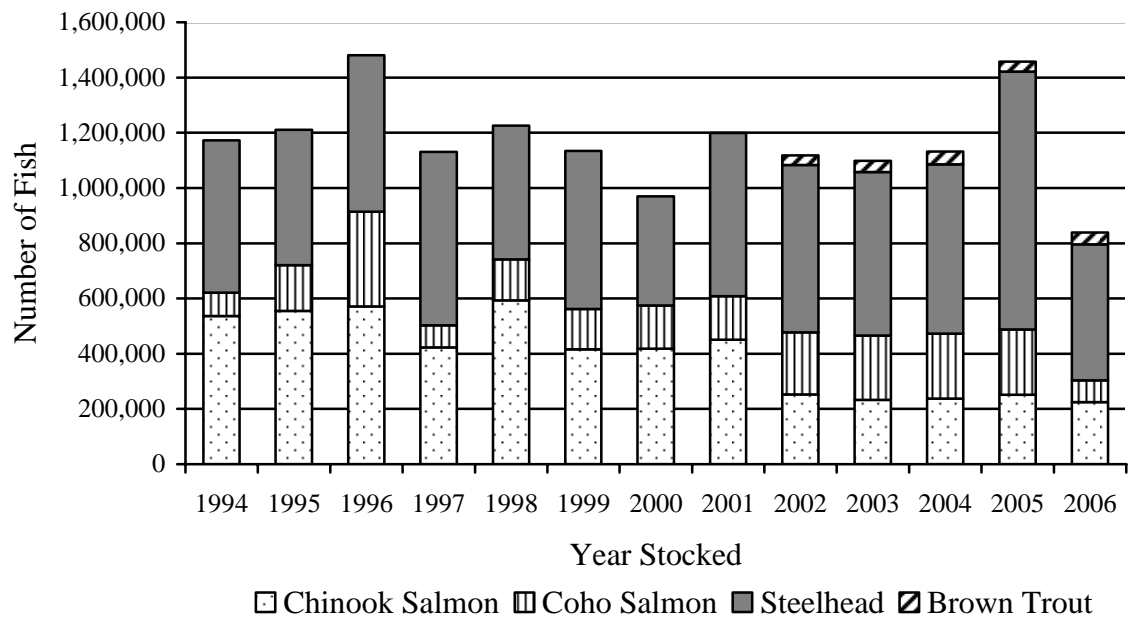


Figure 2. Number of trout and salmon stocked in Lake Michigan (including the St. Joseph River) by Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 1994 through 2006.

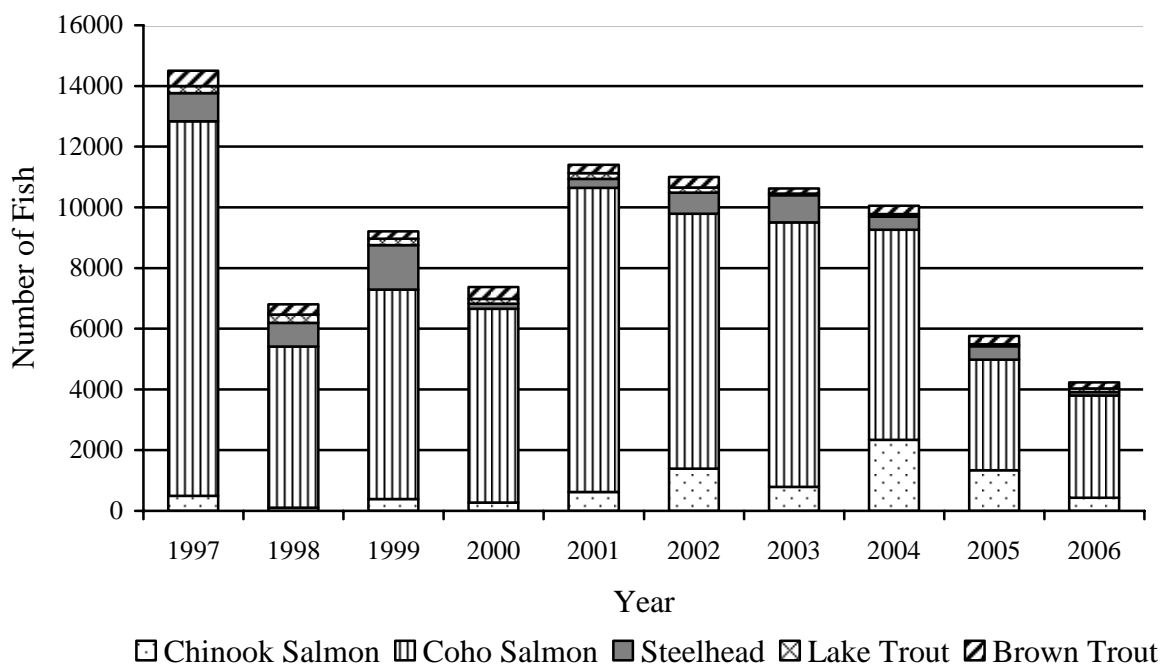


Figure 3. Trout and salmon harvest reported by charter boat operators fishing Indiana waters of Lake Michigan from 1997 through 2006.

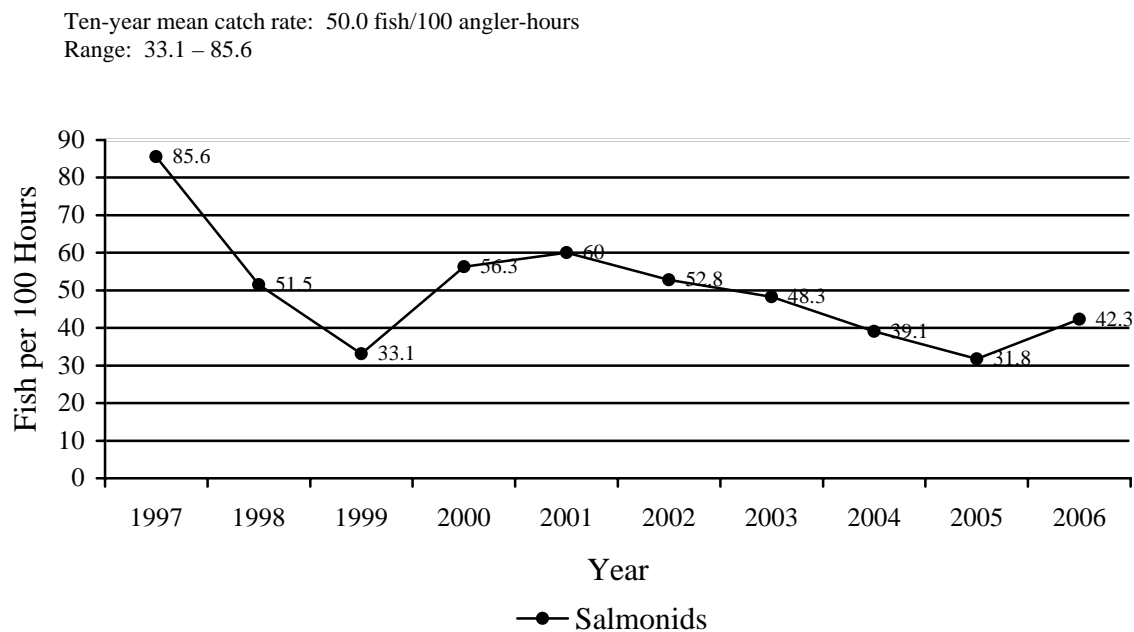


Figure 4. Charter catch rate for all salmonid species in Indiana waters of Lake Michigan from 1997 through 2006.

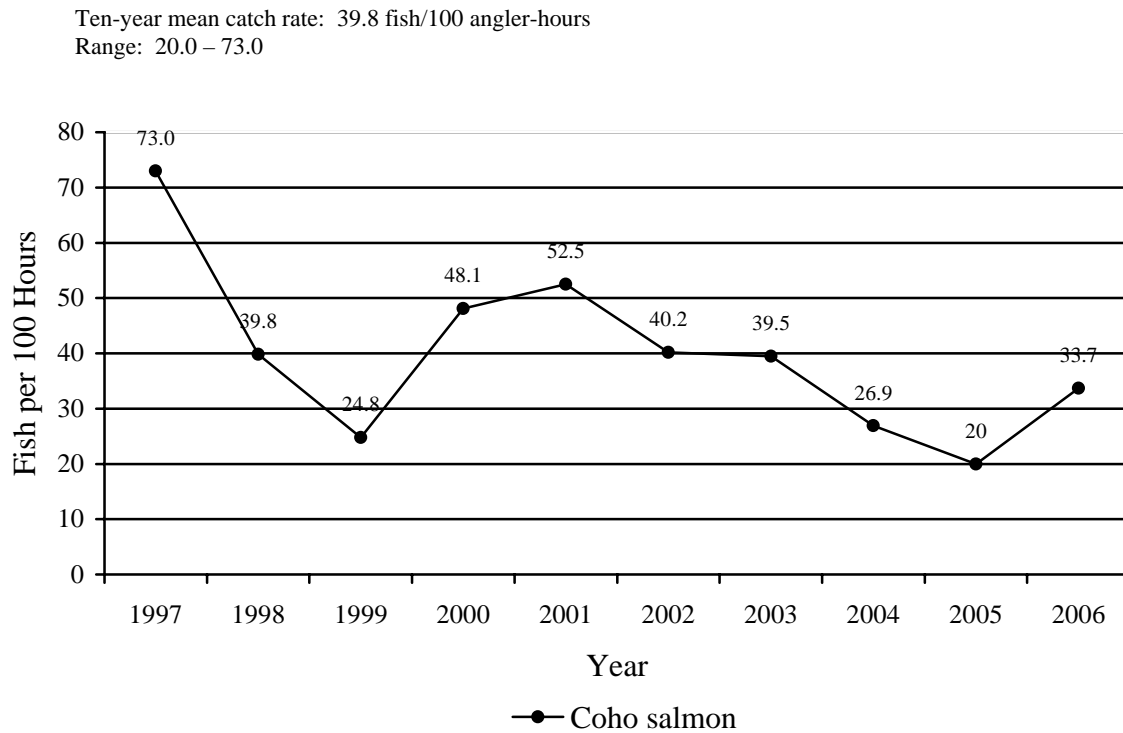


Figure 5. Charter catch rate for coho salmon in Indiana waters of Lake Michigan from 1997 through 2006.

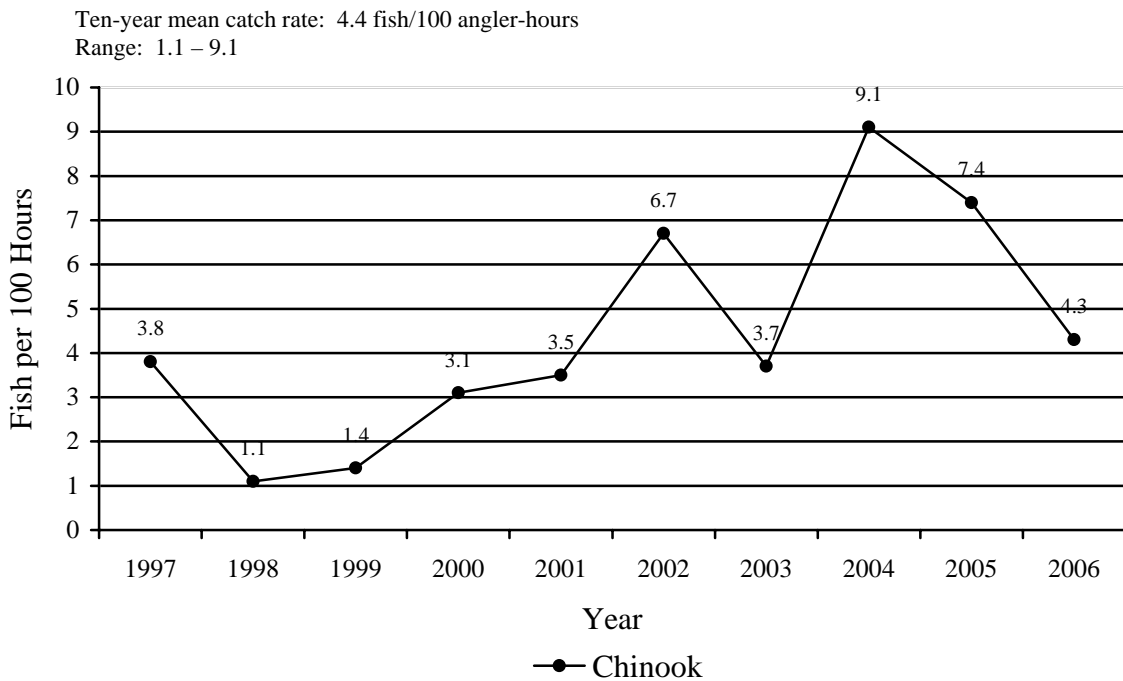


Figure 6. Charter catch rate for Chinook salmon in Indiana waters of Lake Michigan from 1997 through 2006.

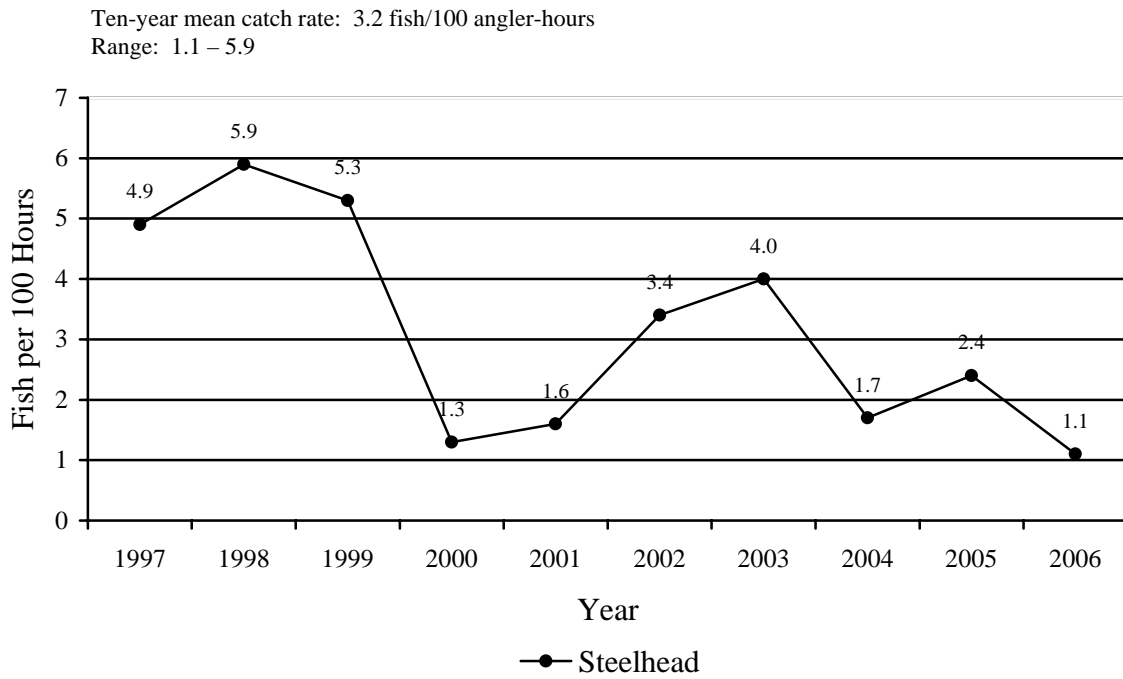


Figure 7. Charter catch rate for steelhead in Indiana waters of Lake Michigan from 1997 through 2006.

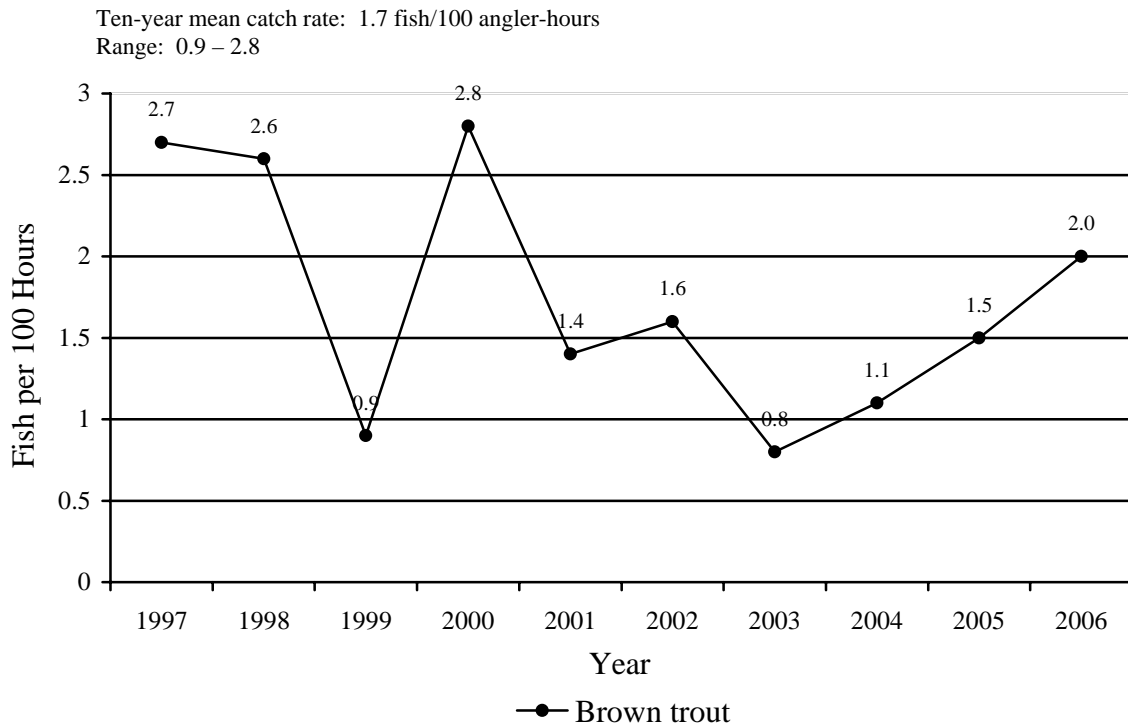


Figure 8. Charter catch rate for brown trout in Indiana waters of Lake Michigan from 1997 through 2006.

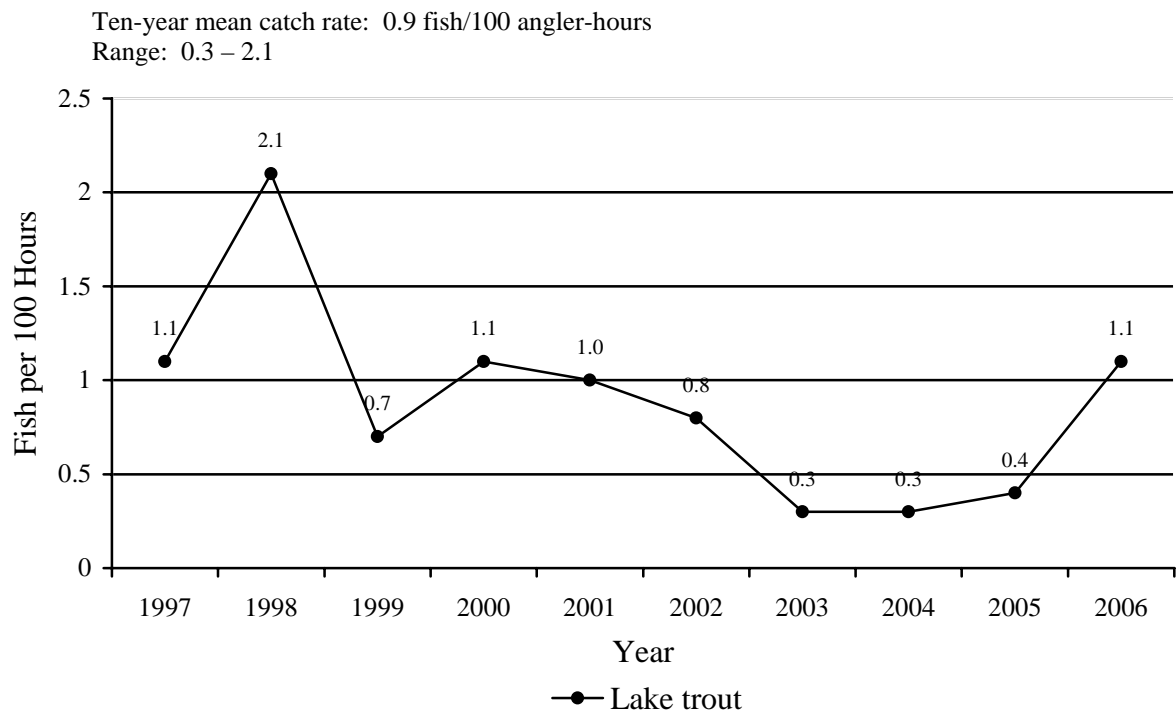


Figure 9. Charter catch rate for lake trout in Indiana waters of Lake Michigan from 1997 through 2006.

APPENDIX 1

312 I.A.C. 9-7-17 Charter fishing boat operator's license

Authority: IC 14-22-2-6; IC 14-22-15

Affected: IC 14-22-15-4

Sec. 17. (a) An individual may not take another individual sport fishing for hire on:

- (1) Indiana waters;
- (2) waters containing state-owned fish; or
- (3) state boundary waters;

without a charter fishing boat operator's license issued by the director under IC 14-22-15-4 and this section.

(b) A license holder under this section shall, on a departmental form, keep legible and accurate daily fishing records of the:

- (1) species;
- (2) numbers, locations, and dates of fish taken; and
- (3) number of fishermen and hours fished;

while engaged in charter fishing. These daily records shall be recorded before the licensed fishing person departs the boat at the conclusion of the fishing trip.

(c) A license holder under this section shall, on a departmental form, prepare a monthly report of the information maintained on the daily fishing records. The monthly report shall be submitted to the director or the director's representative before the fifteenth day of each month following the month covered. The report shall be submitted each month regardless of whether charter fishing activity occurs in the month covered unless the license holder has submitted an Inactive License Form to signify that no fishing activity will take place for the remainder of the calendar year. The Inactive License Form shall be submitted to the director or the director's representative before the fifteenth day of the month following the month the license is deemed inactive.

(d) The director or the director's representative may, at any reasonable time, inspect the daily fishing records required under subsection (b) or IC 14-22-15-4. (*Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-7-17; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2721; filed May 28, 1998, 5:14 p.m.: 21 IR 3723; filed Dec 26, 2001, 2:40 p.m.: 25 IR 1540; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286*)

State Form 25789 (R6 / 9-03)
Indiana Fish and Wildlife

Return to:
Division of Fish and Wildlife
100 West Water Street
Michigan City, IN 46360

Name of licensee	Name of body of water fished	License number
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FORM
(numbers correspond to numbers on the reverse side)

1. **TRIP DATE.** Daily fishing trips shall be recorded before the licensed fishing person departs the boat at the conclusion of the charter boat fishing trip (see *administrative rule* 312 AC 9-7-17). Only trips for which all or part of the trip was conducted in **Indiana** waters need to be accounted for. Record the day of the month the fishing activity occurred. If more than one charter boat fishing trip occurs per day, record each trip on a separate line using the same trip date. For example, if you had 3 trips on April 17th, April 17th will occupy three separate lines.
2. **NUMBER OF ANGLERS.** Daily records shall include the number of anglers fishing in the chartered party. If the captain or first mate's license is used to fish additional poles for the trip or if their license is used for bag limits to count toward the catch, these should be included in the total number of anglers fishing on the boat.
3. **LENGTH OF TRIP.** Record the number of hours fished in **Indiana** waters. If only a portion of the total trip was conducted in Indiana waters, estimate the total hours that were actually fished in Indiana waters.
4. **TOTAL HOURS FISHED.** The total hours fished is arrived at by multiplying the number anglers times the hours fished in Indiana waters. For example, if 4 anglers fished 6 hours, the total hours fished is 24.
5. **NUMBER OF FISH HARVESTED.** Record only fish harvested while fishing in Indiana jurisdictional waters. Use "OTHER" columns for species not listed. **Indicate** what those species are and the **number** harvested in the appropriate boxes. Use the fish abbreviation codes listed. If a code is **not** listed, use the comments box to define the species. For example, if 2 smallmouth bass, 3 largemouth bass and 5 channel catfish were harvested, the fish would be recorded as 2SMB/3LMB in the black bass harvested column and 5CHC in the catfish harvested column.

Black Bass: smallmouth bass (SMB)
 largemouth bass (LMB)

Northern Pike / Muskellunge: northern pike (NOP)
 muskie (MUE)

Temperate Bass: white bass (WHB)
 striped bass (STB)
 hybrid striped bass or wiper (HSB)

Walleye / Sauger: walleye (WAE)
 sauger (SAE)

OTHER: carp (CAP)
 freshwater drum (FWD)
 sunfish family (SUN): includes bluegill, crappie, green sunfish, longear sunfish, pumpkinseed, redear, rock bass, warmouth, etc.

6. **NUMBER OF FISH RELEASED.** Record only fish that were landed but then released while fishing in Indiana jurisdictional waters. Use "OTHER" columns for species not listed. **Indicate** WHAT those species are and the **number** released in the appropriate box. Use the fish abbreviation codes listed above. If a code is **not** listed, use the comments box to define the species. For example, if 3 walleye, 10 crappie and 2 bluegill were released, the fish would be recorded as 3WAE in the walleye/sauger released column and 12SUN in the other released column.
7. **SIGNATURE OF CHARTER OPERATOR.** Sign and date the form. Forms must be submitted monthly, even if no fishing activity occurred. Reports are due in the Fish and Wildlife's Michigan City office on or before the 15th of the month following the report month.

NOTE: Return the original copy (*white*) to the Michigan City address displayed below. This report is due in the Division's Michigan City office on or before the 15th of the month following the report month. At any time you may place your license into inactive status by completing an Inactive Report form. Once your license becomes inactive it may not be used for the remainder of the year.

Return to:
Lake Michigan HQT
100 West Water Street
Michigan City, IN 46360-1310